

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2009

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan,

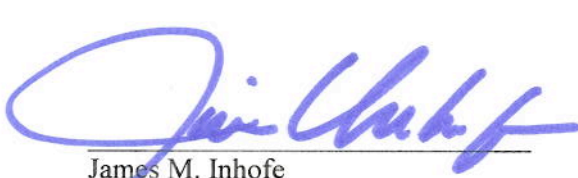
We are writing concerning funding of \$135,494.00 the Picher Housing Authority is to receive pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We understand this formula funding is to be available through the Public Housing Capital Fund.

First, we greatly appreciate your response to correspondence we sent last month concerning the disposition of the Picher Housing Authority. We appreciate the seamless work between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Oklahoma Finance Agency to offer tenant protection vouchers for residents currently in the Picher Housing Authority to find public housing elsewhere. We appreciate HUD working closely with the Picher Housing Authority toward its permanent closure and demolition. Finally, we appreciate the coordination among HUD headquarters, Ft. Worth, and Oklahoma City offices with our offices.

HUD Ft. Worth and Oklahoma City offices have advised us that although the Picher Housing Authority did receive a formula allocation, the funding may not be spent on existing units at the housing authority. In fact, we understand that this formula funding may only reimburse eligible Picher Housing Authority expenses. Given the ongoing work to close the Picher Housing Authority, we request that HUD continue to hold this ARRA funding, and we request an explanation of what expenses would be eligible for reimbursement.

We appreciate your timely response. Should your staff have additional questions please contact Ryan Jackson at 202-224-4721 (Senator Inhofe) or Wendy Kirchoff at (202) 225-2701 (Congressman Boren) for assistance.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



Dan Boren
Member of Congress

cc: Justin Ormsby, Director, Office of Public Housing, Ft. Worth
Jerry Hyden, Oklahoma City Field Office Director
Greg Jungman, Program Center Coordinator